

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
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-----025194 051102Z /11
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9219
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06799

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O.11652:XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: MAY 4, 1978 PLENARY REPORT

CTB MESSAGE NO.189

1. SUMMARY: FIRST PLENARY OF ROUND HELD 10:30 A.M.
MAY 4 AT UK MISSION. IN PREPARED STATEMENTS (SEPTELS)
PETROSYANTS (USSR), JOHNSON (US) AND CRADOCK (UK)
EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT.
PETROSYANTS SAID THAT THE SOV GOVERNMENT AND BREZHNEV,
IN DESIGNATING HIM TO TAKE OVER LEADERSHIP OF SOVIET
DELEGATION, HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT NEGOTIA-
TIONS ARE ENTERING A CRUCIAL PHASE. THE SOVIET DELEGATION
HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REACH AGREE-
MENT AND IS PREPARED TO MAKE THIS ROUND THE "DECISIVE
AND POSSIBLY CONCLUDING STAGE" IN NEGOTIATIONS. END
SUMMARY.

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2. PETROSYANTS EMPHASIZED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO
PRESS NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. HE QUOTED
BREZHNEV'S APRIL 25 SPEECH TO THE KOMSOMOL CONGRESS
EXPRESSING HOPE OF ACHIEVING A TEST BAN TREATY IN THE
NEAR FUTURE. PETROSYANTS SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY FOLLOWED
EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS IN DETAIL AND WAS IMPRESSED BY THE
CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN

EVEN MORE PROGRESS IF OTHER DELEGATIONS HAD NOT MADE UNACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS THAT THREATENED LEGITIMATE SECURITY INTERESTS. NEVERTHELESS, IF ALL DELEGATIONS ADOPT A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH, NOT INSISTING ON EXCESSIVE DETAILS, THEN REMAINING DIFFERENCES CAN BE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF COMPROMISES ACCEPTABLE TO ALL.

3. JOHNSON SAID THE LAST ROUND WAS ENCOURAGING IN THE SENSE THAT AN ACTUAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS WAS STARTED. SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES REMAIN, HOWEVER, AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS WILL NOT BE QUICK OR EASY. US DEL CONTINUES TO GIVE PRIORITY TO VERIFICATION ISSUES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF US PROPOSAL ON INTERNAL SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS. US DEL HAS ALSO CONSIDERED EXCHANGES WITH SOVS ON ISIS DURING LAST ROUND AND IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. JOHNSON STRESSED THAT PROGRESS MUST ALSO BE MADE ON ISSUES OTHER THAN VERIFICATION, IN PARTICULAR TREATY DURATION AND PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS: "WE AWAIT MOVEMENT BY OUR SOVIET NEGOTIATING PARTNERS ON THESE ISSUES."

4. CRADOCK SAID THE THREE GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED THAT NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, SUPPLEMENTED BY INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC DATA EXCHANGE, WOULD PROVIDE THE PRIMARY BASIS OF VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS. ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS THAT WILL PROVIDE GREATER CONFIDENCE IN TREATY COMPLIANCE ARE:

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ACCEPTANCE BY UK AND US OF ON-SITE INSPECTION ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS; SOVIET ACCEPTANCE THAT THERE SHOULD BE ISIS; AND AGREEMENT THAT THESE PROVISIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE THREE COUNTRIES. REMAINING PROBLEMS OF VERIFICATION CAN BE OVERCOME, BUT VERIFICATION CANNOT BE SETTLED IN ISOLATION; VERIFICATION AND PROBLEMS OF TREATY DURATION AND PNES ARE INTER-RELATED. NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE FACILITATED BY ENTRUSTING MORE TASKS TO POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS.

5. CRADOCK OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS DEPARTURE AND ASSIGNMENT AS UK AMBASSADOR TO PEKING AND SAID HIS DEPUTY EDMONDS WOULD HEAD UK DEL BEGINNING MAY 6. NEXT PLENARY DATE LEFT OPEN.

6. DURING POST-PLENARY HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING, PETROSYANTS GAVE IMPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE AND DIRECTNESS AS NEW LEADER OF SOVIET DELEGATION. HE INDICATED THAT HE IS "FULLY IN THE PICTURE" ON CTB ISSUES AND THAT HE EXPECTS THE DELEGATIONS TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION REGARDING HIS IDEAS ON WORK

SCHEDULE, (IN CONTEXT OF HIS STATEMENT THAT SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THIS ROUND "DECISIVE AND POSSIBLY CONCLUDING STAGE" OF NEGOTIATIONS), PETROSYANTS RESPONDED ALONG FOLLOWING LINE: WE SHOULD WORK AS MUCH AS NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT GO ON ENDLESSLY; EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON OUR INSTRUCTIONS AND OUR DESIRE TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS; THIS IS A DECISIVE STAGE IN THAT ALL ISSUES HAVE NOW BEEN IDENTIFIED AND WE MUST FIND POSITIONS AND FORMULATIONS WHICH SATISFY ALL THREE COUNTRIES; IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO MAKE THIS THE CONCLUDING STAGE;

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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IF NECESSARY WE COULD HAVE A BREAK IN ORDER TO CONSULT WITH OUR GOVERNMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. JOHNSON

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